



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PET SHOP REGULATIONS



Sec. 22-344-16a. Structural standards. The facilities for housing animals shall be structurally sound and shall be maintained in good repair to prevent injury to the animals. All buildings, premises and containers used to transport animals shall be maintained in a sanitary manner. Equipment shall be available for the proper storage or disposal of waste material to control vermin, insects and obnoxious odors. Pet shops shall take effective measures to control and prevent the infestation of animals and premises with external parasites and vermin. The burning of any excreta, bedding or debris on the premises is prohibited.

Sec. 22-344-17a. Enclosures. (a) Enclosures for all animals shall be suited to the species of animals, structurally sound and maintained in good repair to protect animals from injury and escape. Enclosures shall be constructed and maintained so as to enable the animals to remain clean and dry when appropriate for the species. All animals shall be kept in proper enclosures except when cleaning said enclosures. Birds acclimated to open perches shall be exempt from the enclosure requirement.

(b) Walls and floors of enclosures shall be constructed of nonabsorbent, nonporous materials impervious to moisture. If wire or grid flooring is used it must be made of galvanized, stainless steel, or plastic coated wire and be of adequate gauge to support the animal (s) without sagging and to prevent the animals' feet from passing through the openings. Enclosures in current use shall be cleaned and disinfected daily or more if necessary to maintain a sanitary condition.

(c) Enclosures shall be designed and constructed as to provide adequate physical comfort to the animals. Each animal must be provided with sufficient space to turn about freely and easily stand, sit or lie in a comfortable natural position. Animals that are group housed must be maintained in compatible groups. No female dog or cat in season (estrus) shall be housed in the same primary enclosure with male animals except for breeding purposes.

Sec. 22-344-18a. Housing facilities - temperature. (a) Pet shops shall be sufficiently heated to protect animals from the cold and to provide for their health and comfort at all times. The temperature of the air surrounding animals shall be maintained, under normal conditions, at a minimum of 65°F and a maximum of 78°F, except for those animals which require higher temperatures. Animals shall be provided protection from the direct rays of the sun.

(b) Housing for animals shall be adequately ventilated in such a manner as to minimize drafts, offensive odors and moisture condensation and to provide for the health and comfort of the animals at all times. Ventilation shall be deemed adequate only if mechanical ventilation, such as exhaust fans, exhaust vents or air conditioning is provided and operating properly.

Sec. 22-344-19a. Lighting. Facilities housing animals shall have ample well distributed light by natural or artificial means, or both, providing a minimum of 30 foot candles for a minimum of eight hours in each twenty-four hour period, except where contraindicated for health reasons. Enclosures shall be so placed as to protect animals from excessive illumination except those which require it.

Sec. 22-344-20a. Animal health. (a) Animals shall be provided with food that is wholesome, palatable, free from contamination and of sufficient quantity and nutritive value to maintain animals in good health. Animals, other than certain reptiles which according to normal husbandry practices for their species are not fed at least once daily, must be fed at least once a day, including Sundays and holidays, except as dictated by hibernation, veterinary treatment, normal fasts, or other commonly accepted practices recognized by professionals who are expert in the care of the animals concerned. In the case of young animals, they shall be fed at least two times per day, except when continuous self feeders are provided. Feeding pans shall be durable and sanitized daily. Self feeders may be used for the feeding of dry food provided they are cleaned and sanitized regularly to prevent molding or caking of food. If disposable food receptacles are used, they must be discarded after each feeding. Food shall be stored in facilities which adequately protect the supplies against deterioration, molding or contamination by vermin.

(b) Potable water shall be provided at all times to each animal in accordance with its needs, except as directed by hibernation, veterinary treatment or other commonly accepted practices recognized by professionals who are expert in the care of the animals concerned. Water containers shall be designed and of sufficient number to provide and dispense adequate quantities of water for the particular species and must be placed in such a way as to prevent spillage. Water containers shall be cleaned and sanitized at least once each day, except that sipper-tube type water bottles, if used, must be kept clean and sanitized regularly, kept free of dirt, debris and algae, and must be cleaned and sanitized prior to an animal being placed in an enclosure.

(c) All dogs and cats received for resale shall be housed, separate from other dogs and cats on the premises for a minimum of 48 hours before being released to a purchaser. Each animal shall be observed daily by the licensee or his representative in order to recognize general symptoms of injury, illness or disease. Any dog or cat that exhibits symptoms of injury, illness or disease shall be isolated and treated as prescribed by a veterinarian. Any such dog or cat shall be verified by a veterinarian to be healthy before such dog or cat can be offered for sale.

(d) Dogs confined in cages shall be removed at least once daily for a period of time. Each pet shop shall consult with a veterinarian licensed in Connecticut to determine the place and period of time necessary for exercise for their dogs confined in cages. Each pet shop shall follow the advice of the veterinarian.

Sec. 22-344-21a. Prohibited sales. The exhibition, sale or offer for sale by a pet shop of any of the following listed animals is prohibited.

1. Chicks, ducklings or other poultry under three months of age.
2. Foxes (*Urocyon eineroarg-enteus*; *Vulpes fulva*).
3. Raccoons (*Procyon Lotor*).

4. Skunks (Mephitis).
5. Venomous reptiles.
6. Venomous amphibians.
7. Venomous arachnids.
8. Turtles, except those sold or offered for sale in accordance with section 19a-102 of the General Statutes and Connecticut Department of Health Services regulation 19-13-A49.
9. Monk or Quaker Parakeets (Myiopsitta Monachus).
10. All animals listed under section 26-40a of the General Statutes as potentially dangerous wild animals.
11. Any animal which exhibits:
 - (a) Obvious signs of infectious disease such as distemper, parvovirus, coronavirus, hepatitis, leptospirosis, rabies or other similiar diseases. (Not to be construed to include incubating diseases.)
 - (b) Obvious signs of nutritional disease which may include rickets and emaciation.
 - (c) Obvious signs of severe parasitism -- extreme enough to be influencing its general health.
 - (d) Fractures or congenital abnormalities affecting its general health.

Sec. 22-344-25c. Records. (a) The owner or operator of a pet shop shall maintain the following records regarding each dog or cat obtained by the pet shop:

1. Name and address of person, firm or corporation from whom animal was obtained, date thereof and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) dealer license number if applicable.
2. Description of dog or cat including species, breed, sex, color and distinctive markings, physical condition and health, age and USDA animal indentification number if applicable.
3. Name and address of person, firm or corporation to whom dog or cat was sold or ownership was transferred and date thereof.
4. Disposition of dog or cat, if not sold or transferred, including euthanasia and method, mortality and cause, if known, escape, or other specific circumstance, and date thereof.
5. For each dog or cat receiving medical care, the type of service rendered, date and veterinarian's name.
6. If applicable the USDA individual health certificate and identification form (VS form 18-1).

(b) The information required by subdivision (1) and (2) of subsection (a) shall be entered into a bound logbook with all pages consecutively numbered within 72 hours of receipt of the dog or cat. The information required by subdivisions 3 through 5 of subsection (a) shall be entered into the logbook within 72 hours of the event which is being recorded. Any entry in the logbook which is not adjacent to the original entry describing the animal shall refer to such original entry.

(c) The records required by subsection (a) shall be maintained at the pet shop for a minimum of two years after the date of sale, transfer or other disposition of the dog or cat addressed by the record, and shall be readily available for inspection by any designated agent of the commissioner.

(d) The licensee of a pet shop shall, within 72 hours of receipt of a dog or cat, mail or deliver a copy of the USDA individual health certificate and identification form (VS form 18-1) to the State Veterinarian.